

Building of an Isthmian Canal at PANAMA

The French Project in Which the Government Is Offered a Controlling Interest.

SAURDAY JAN. 19, 1901

A WEEK'S NEWS CONDENSED

Thursday, Jan. 10.

A movement is on foot to abolish the whipping post in Delaware.

Thirty-one deaths have resulted from the Rochester orphan asylum fire of last Tuesday morning.

Miss Elizabeth Shifer, a 90-year-old hermit, was buried to death in her hut near Keokuk, Md.

Fred Putterbaugh, aged 12 years, while skating yesterday near Wilkes-Barre, Pa., broke through the ice and was drowned.

Frank G. Clarke, representative in congress from the Second New Hampshire district, died in Peterboro, N. H., aged 58 years.

Experiments in Havana prove that mosquitoes spread yellow fever, and that there is no danger from an infected person or infected clothing.

Friday, Jan. 11.

Rear Admiral Thomas F. Phelps, of Washington, died in New York of pneumonia.

Mr. Charles E. Barnes, United States consul at Cologne, Germany, has received his exequatur.

Commander John W. Quackenbush, U. S. N., retired, died yesterday at his residence in Washington.

Senator Tillman, of South Carolina, denies the report of a disagreement between himself and William J. Bryan.

Secretary Wilson has addressed a letter to the chairman of the senate committee on agriculture and forestry in defense of the Great oleomargarine bill.

Saturday, Jan. 12.

At Jackson, Miss., the rainfall in 24 hours amounted to about four inches.

Lord Lionel Cecil, half brother of the Marquis of Salisbury, died in London yesterday.

M. De Witte, the Russian minister of finance, will be created a count at the Russian new year.

According to advices from Berlin the health of Emperor Frederick is again causing anxiety.

Lawrence Martin, aged 20, of Taunton, Mass., hurt in a football game at Fall River on Christmas day, died yesterday of his injuries.

The liabilities of the 16 London stock exchange firms which recently failed aggregate £2,000,000, in one case the figures reaching £200,000.

Sunday, Jan. 13.

Thomas M. Patterson, of Denver, succeeds E. O. Wolcott as United States senator from Colorado.

Four hundred fishermen are missing, and they are supposed to have perished in a storm Jan. 10 off the west coast of Japan.

The anthracite miners' convention at Edwinstown, Pa., will take decisive action to prevent strikes for trivial cause.

Alfred G. Vanderbilt, the richest man of his age in the world, was married today at Newport to Miss Elsie French.

J. Y. Paige, for six years past clerk to the comptroller of the currency, died of pneumonia in Washington yesterday, aged 50.

Samuel Lewis, the notorious London money lender and usurer, who has been called the "greatest and meanest of modern Shylocks," is dead.

Tuesday, Jan. 15.

The bill to increase the salary of North Carolina's governor from \$3,000 to \$4,000 passed both houses.

New Hampshire's legislature elected Judge Henry E. Burnham United States senator to succeed Chandler.

Andrew Carnegie denies the report that the J. P. Morgan syndicate is to purchase the Carnegie Steel company's works.

Mrs. Susan L. M. Ward, widow of Marcus L. Ward, former governor of New Jersey, died at her home in Newark yesterday, aged 86.

The Massachusetts legislature today re-elected George F. Hoar United States senator. Democrats voted for Richard Olney, ex-secretary of state.

The state electoral colleges met yesterday, cast the votes for president and vice president and appointed messengers to convey the votes to Washington.

Wednesday, Jan. 16.

John Hunn was formally inaugurated as governor of Delaware at the county court house at Dover yesterday.

Samuel A. McNeal, the fugitive ex-district attorney of Altoona, Pa., has been taken to that city from the Norfolk (Va.) jail.

A convention for the purpose of urging upon congress the passage of an act providing for statehood will be held at Guthrie, O. T., Jan. 30.

Work on Lord Dunraven's cup challenger, at Glasgow, is all done at night, and the greatest secrecy is observed. Even waste scraps are locked up and sealed daily.

At Thomasville, Ga., William Doss, a young lawyer, son of the sheriff, is charged with killing Emmett Sims from ambush. They were rival lovers of the same girl.

Gen. McDowell, a well-to-do storekeeper of Spring Creek, Ark., was shot and killed in a business quarrel by Dr. Snipes, his friend and partner, who is a prominent physician.

Senator McMillan Re-elected.

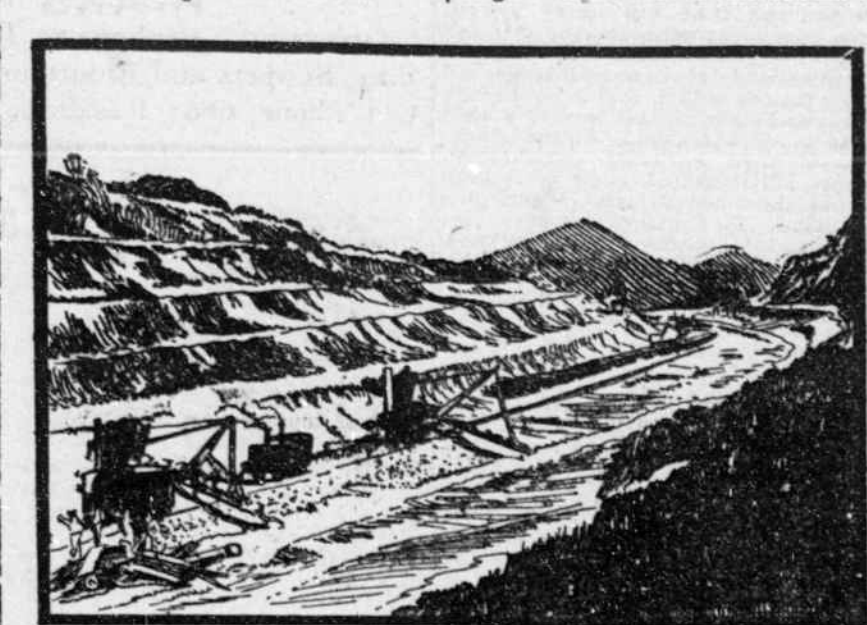
Lansing, Mich., Jan. 16.—United States Senator James McMillan, of Detroit, was re-elected by the Michigan legislature yesterday afternoon, being the unanimous choice of the Republican majority. He received 85 votes in the house and 31 in the senate. Thomas B. Barkworth, of Jackson, was given a complimentary vote by the Democratic minority. The vote was verified in joint convention today.

Cold Air on Draught.

Hot or cold air will be turned on from spigots to regulate the temperature of a house as we now turn on hot or cold water from spigots to regulate the temperature of the bath during the coming century. Central plants will supply this cool air and heat to city houses, in the same way as now our gas or electricity is furnished. Rising early to build the furnace fire will be a task of the older times. Homes will have no chimneys, because no smoke will be created within their walls.—Ladies' Home Journal.

SO CLOSELY has the American public connected the Panama canal enterprise with the name of De Lesseps, and so familiar are we with the circumstances surrounding the failure of that great engineer and the scandal that followed him to his grave, that we are prone to look upon any project connected with the Panama venture as a swindle. When De Lesseps began the construction of the Panama canal we dreamed of a grand reality; when he failed we awoke to find our reality but a dream.

But in 1894 a new company took hold of the work where the De Lesseps company dropped it. Of that new company we have heard, or seemingly cared, but little, until now they offer to our government a controlling interest in their project if we will finish it. The first impression is that they have nothing but a concession and a vast amount of worn and antiquated machinery to dispose of, but that is wrong; they have a partially completed canal, a canal that is nearer completion than we probably realize, and, while it may not be good policy on the part of our government to buy, it would seem to be poor policy on the part of the French company to stop their work at the present time and lose the hundreds of millions that have been invested so far. The result may be two canals where we have so long wished for one.



THE GREAT CULEBRA CUT, 34 MILES FROM THE ATLANTIC.

At the present time about 4,000 men are engaged in the work of separating North and South America at Panama. Work is being pushed almost entirely from the Atlantic side, and of the 46 1/2 miles that it is necessary to cut through before ships can pass from the Atlantic to the Pacific ocean 15 miles are already completed. This channel completes the tidewater section of the canal on the Atlantic side—nearly one-third of the entire cut. It has been dredged to a depth of nine meters, or more than 30 feet, and 30 meters wide at the bottom.

A glance at the accompanying map shows the route of the canal, and also shows the Charges river. The greatest engineering difficulties encountered are occasioned by the crossing of this river in several places. While during



MAP SHOWING ROUTE OF THE PANAMA CANAL.

the greater portion of the year the Charges river is but little more than a brook, there are times when it becomes a raging torrent. To control this torrent of water and store it as a supply for feeding the canal is the problem that has taxed the ingenuity of the engineers, and yet, now that they have solved the problem, it seems decidedly simple.

The Charges river rises in a series of deep ravines some miles to the north-east of the route of the canal. It is from these ravines that much of the water comes which produces the floods. To stop these floods the engineers have dammed the mouth of the ravines and by this means have formed a lake capable of holding back the greater part of the water that would carry destruction with it if permitted to go unobstructed and at the same time supply a feeder for the canal.

The Bohio lake shown in the map is another deep cut through which the river flows and which will become a part of the canal as well as a storage reservoir for the water needed to feed it. This is accomplished by damming the mouth of the cut and placing a lock at the lower end.

The difficulties of earing for the floods in the Charges river and providing a water supply for the canal over-

Education of Mme. Chrysanthemum.

The Japanese are truly making rapid strides in their march toward western culture. The latest innovation is the formation of commercial schools for the training of female clerks, and one of the largest railway companies in Nippon has intimated that after a certain date women only will be employed in the clerical department.—Hong-Kong Press.

come, the remainder of the work resolves itself into the digging of the big ditch and the building of the system of locks that will raise a vessel over the divide between the two oceans.

To accomplish this there will be a system of eight lockages, the first one in from the Atlantic side being at the outlet of the Bohio lake. The line of the canal, however, has been so selected that it will be possible to make it a tide water channel whenever conditions warrant the expense. Of the present canal the dividing reach will be about 21 meters above the mean level of the sea.

Towards the work of digging the great ditch itself great progress has been made. Not only has the canal been practically completed from Colon, on the Atlantic side, to the Bohio locks, but beyond that a great amount of work has been done. At San Pablo, 23 miles from the Atlantic, the canal is now large and deep enough to float an ordinary sized vessel, and at La Corozita, 23 miles from the Atlantic, the cut is rapidly nearing completion.

Of the work of excavating the Culebra cut presented the greatest difficulties. This cut carries the canal through the divide between the two oceans, and is some five miles in length. Some idea of the amount of

work that has been done on it may be had from the accompanying engraving, which shows the cut as it is 34 miles from the Atlantic. The work of excavating has been carried to a point within eight miles of the Pacific, while some work has been done at Panama, the Pacific terminus of the canal.

From this brief description of the work that has already been accomplished it may be seen that the French company has something more than a plan to sell to us, even though it may not be a feasible proposition for this government to buy. At the same time, with so much accomplished it would seem to be almost a settled fact that the company behind the enterprise would push it to final completion, whether we build another waterway to connect the two oceans or not.

Of the machinery of which so much has been said, there are millions of dollars' worth of antiquated dredges, excavators and other expensive machines piled in heaps along the route of the canal just as they were left by the De Lesseps company. These are scarcely worth the expense of marketing as old metal, but many of the machines now in use by the new company are modern, and at least one-half of them are of American build. In a word, the new company has been administered with economy, and a desire to complete the work of construction with as little expense as possible.

WRIGHT A. PATTERSON.

Queer Ice Making.

Water in a shallow pan, in a sheltered place, will freeze even when the thermometer is above the freezing point. This is due to the rapid loss of heat of the earth after nightfall. In some hot countries ice is obtained in commercial quantities by setting shallow earthenware pans of water on the ground protected from the wind.—Science.

Incomplete Instruction.

"Here's a sermon on 'How to Bring Men to Church.'"

"Does it say anything about how to keep men awake in church after you get there?"—Chicago Record.

Heard at the Club.

Cleveland—How was the dinner last night?

Dashaway—Fine, old man. It was the best dinner I ever drank.—Town Topics.

Got Rich Quick.

Sara Bernhardt's long engagement in "L'Aiglon" at her Paris theater, just closed, is said to have averaged in receipts \$2,100 a performance.

Won't Work Both Ways.

Give to a pig when it grunts and a child when it cries, and you will have a fine pig and a bad child.

A Kind Word for William.

"Shakespeare didn't have the genius to make a million dollars," remarked the servile citizen.

"No," answered the millionaire who has been flattered before. "But let us not look down on Shakespeare. Let us give him credit for having sense enough to be comfortably and happily without demanding such an immense amount of capital for the enterprise."—Washington Star.

NOTABLE MEN.

Lord Salisbury has never been known to be in the peers' gallery in the house of commons, and Mr. Gladstone, though he was in parliament for 60 years, was never seen in the smoking-room.

It is declared to be a fact that when Joseph Chamberlain was made colonial secretary he did not know where the colonial office was, although it is

LUCK FORSOOK HIM.

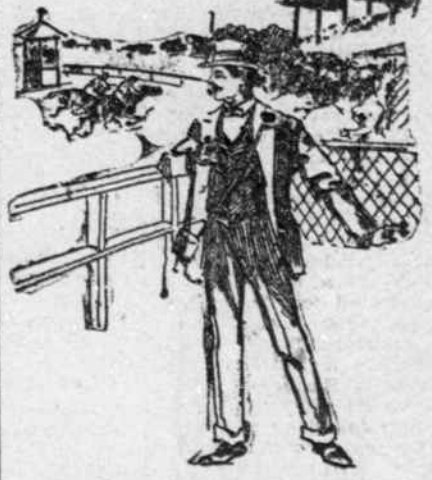
Millions Made in Betting on Races by an English Officer Lost in the Same Way.

One hundred to one were the odds against Bendigo in the Poona Hunt plate.

These odds were cried into the ears of a young subaltern in the British army in India and a legacy of £200 burned in his pocket. One hundred to one! He thought the odds over, went up and put every penny on the outsider.

Then the unexpected happened. Bendigo came under the wire in an easy canter. As a result young Lieut. Fredericks walked away from the betting stands with £20,000 in his pocket.

This was the beginning of the biggest run of racing luck that India has



WON AND LOST A FORTUNE.

ever known. Fredericks followed up his success and everything he touched turned to gold. In five years his £20,000 had become £500,000 and all India was amazed at his fortunes. Then Fredericks threw up his commission and returned to England. He took a house in London at £3,000 a year and made a record book on the Derby. It was the year that Baron Kirech's La Fleche suffered defeat by Lord Bradford's Sir Hugo. Fredericks backed the one race lost half of his fortune. Disgusted, he went back to India to pick up anew the threads of his old luck, but they were gone. He lost steadily.

To-day Fredericks is stable chief to a racing chief in one of the north-western Indian provinces.

PERTINENT QUESTION.

Little Girl Wanted to Know Whether the Lady Caller Had Forgotten to Depart.

Most people have met the woman who says: "Well, I must be going," and who then proceeds to spend the next hour and a quarter in saying good-by. Comparatively few people know her direct opposite, who goes when she is ready without preliminaries. The two met the other day, and the consequences were amusing.

The woman who procrastinates went to call on the woman who in prompt and businesslike, and the latter's little daughter was present during the call. Finally the visitor announced that she really must start herself away. After which she started an entirely new line of conversation on the subject of the reported engagement of a grass widow in the next block, and kept the hostess and her little daughter standing on their feet for something like 20 minutes.

The little girl had been taught by her mother that it was bad form to thus stand upon the order of your going, and she could not understand it. She felt sure, says the Chicago Tribune, that her mother's visitor would not intentionally so violate the proprieties. She had heard her say that



"DID YOU FORGET TO GO?"

she must be going, and she wanted to save her from the consequences of a lapse of memory. The farewells had slowly progressed from the drawing-room to the reception hall, when the child finally decided that it was time to do something.

"Excuse me, Mrs. Jones," she said, planting herself squarely in front of the procrastinating visitor, "but did you forget to go?"

Trees Covered with Tents.

Some of the orange growers in Florida cover their trees with tents so arranged as to admit the sunlight on one side and keep out frosty winds on the other. In each tent is an oil lamp, which is lighted on cold nights to keep the trees warm.

Otters as Fish Catchers.

In various parts of India otters are used by the natives to catch fish for them. So rapid is the speed of the otter under water that no fish can escape them. When not working, the otters are tied to stakes, like chained logs.

THE EXTREME LIMIT.

"I think there should be a law against publishing lies," said the innocent-faced man as he laid down his paper and heaved a sigh.

"Have you discovered a lie?" was asked by a fellow passenger.

"I'm sure of it. A man who was on a steamer when she was wrecked claims to have swum a distance of 40 miles to land. We know that is a physical impossibility. I myself was once on a steamer lost off coast and at that time I was called a champion swimmer. I swam and swam and swam, but I didn't swim no 40 miles. I could not have done it."

"How far did you swim?"

"Thirty-nine miles to a foot, sir, and any man in this world who says he has swum 40 is a liar, sir, and the truth isn't in him, sir!"—Chicago Daily News.

FOUR LOVE STORIES.

They Show That Some Brides Must Be Won in Queer Ways.

One Man Had to Cross the Ocean in a 24-Foot Boat and Another Had to Go to Darkest Africa to Kill Elephants.

Jacob Blechley, who recently died in Hull, left a widow who had set him an odd pre-nuptial task only four years before. She was pretty Florence Atterby, daughter of a merchant skipper of that seafaring town, and she had agreed to marry him if he would sail to her from Sandy Hook, N. J., in an open boat. Blechley built a 20-foot boat with a deck covered bow, in which he stored his provisions. Without any shelter for himself he passed 14 weeks at sea, signaling sailing ships for his provisions. He landed at Cardiff, Wales, and was married three weeks later. Blechley's widow is not making a similar offer, though many men are willing.

John Sutton, of Somersetshire, loved a buxom English lass named Palmer. She was an admirer of great physical strength in men, and she told him she would marry him on the day that he should pull up by the roots an oak sapling that grew in her father's garden. The prospective father-in-law did not object to the task and Sutton pulled and pulled until his eyes used to stick out beyond the bridge of his nose. One day, after six months of effort, the sapling gave way so suddenly that Sutton landed on the back of his neck, seeing so many imaginary stars that it was three days before he could stand at the altar and see the real star plainly.

Mary Eltham, daughter of a master carpenter in Leeds, England, had captured the hearts of John Taylor, of Blackburn, and Henry Gooding, of Sydney, Australia. She would not make a choice, however, until they had entered a year's contest at saving human life. Within six weeks Gooding rescued a girl at Yarmouth pier. Three months later Taylor rescued two workmen from the ruins of a Leeds foundry. A week later he took a drowning boy from a milldam. Then Gooding carried a woman and three children out of a burning building in Blackfriars, London. A few weeks later Taylor went sailing, the boat

swimming, and he rescued a man and a boy. A week later he carried his brother out of the burning home in Leeds, winning the bride by two lives.

Fred Cheyne, a Scotchman, fell in love with a young woman at Crewe and she sent him elephant hunting, with instructions to bag 12 of the brutes in six months and hurry home with the ivory. Cheyne hastened to Somaliland as the most likely hunting grounds, and for three weeks he wrestled with the fever. For two months he searched in vain for elephants; then, in a streak of luck, he killed two in a week. The next week he got a third animal, which came near getting him just before the last lucky shot. In three months he stretched nine huge brutes on the ground, and, with the tusks, broke for home. He had a fortnight to spare when he got there, but they didn't wait for that.

INDUSTRIAL.

The Hawaiian Planters' association has offered \$5,000 in prizes to inventors of labor saving machines to be used in the sugar business.

There is one large factory in Chicago which has been successfully manufacturing the American cooking briquettes for several months, and with a daily output of 200 tons, or about 60,000 tons a year.

It costs more to build fast ships than slow ones; it costs more to maintain them; they wear out very much faster than the freighters, and their earning capacity is not so large in comparison with the amount of money invested.

There has been such a tremendous decrease in Alaska's output of furs that a decided stimulus is felt in the business of fox farming in the southeastern part of the territory. Numerous such enterprises are being organized, and a skunk farm is also being established.

ELECTRICAL.

Electric fans now take the place in Calcutta of punkhas that were pulled by coolies.

All electrical machinery is now entered duty free in India, but there is a duty of five per cent. ad valorem on electrical goods.

The longest electric railway in the world is to be built in Montana. It is to connect Billings and Great Falls, which are 200 miles apart.

The penny-in-the-slot system of distributing gas in the poorer districts of London has proved so successful that attempts are now being made to apply electric light in the same way.

Heavy cars, each holding 60 passengers, traveled easily 37 miles in one hour over the Albany and Hudson electric railway, at the formal opening recently. The road is interesting in that it is the longest "third rail" road in the world, and, although an experiment, it seems to be a perfect success.

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